Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for a host system to communicate with and to identify at least one client device that communicates with the host system through a network address translator device, the method comprising:

enabling communications from a first client device through the network address translator device;

receiving a data packet that includes a payload portion and an attribute portion, wherein the attribute portion includes a destination address that indicates a destination for the data packet and a nearest source address;

examining a portion of the received data packet other than the nearest source address for a host-assigned identifier that identifies a client device that communicated the received data packet;

processing the received data packet in accordance with predetermined host system controls accessible to the host system for the first client device if the host-assigned identifier identifies the first client device;

enabling communications from a second client device that communicates through the network address translator device;

processing the received data packet in accordance with predetermined host system controls accessible to the host system for the second client device if the host-assigned identifier identifies the second client device;

assigning to the second client device a second identifier to be included in payload portions of data packets that are communicated between the second client device and the host system, wherein the host-assigned identifier includes the second identifier; and

assigning to the first client device a first identifier to be included in payload portions of data packets that are communicated between the first client device and the host system, wherein the host-assigned identifier includes the first identifier, and wherein:

assigning the first identifier includes assigning the first identifier such that the host system may uniquely identify the first client device through use of the first identifier, and

assigning the second identifier includes assigning the second identifier such that the host system may uniquely identify the second client device through use of the second identifier.

2. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 1 wherein enabling communications includes enabling communications from the first client device operating in a home network through the network address translator device.

3. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 1 wherein examining the portion of the data packet includes examining the payload portion of the received data packet for the host-assigned identifier that identifies the client device that communicated the received data packet.

4. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 1 wherein examining the portion of the data packet includes examining the received data packet for the host-assigned identifier that differs from the nearest source address and that identifies the client device that communicated the received data packet.

5. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 1 wherein enabling communications includes enabling communications from the first client device using a tunneling protocol.

6. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 5 wherein enabling communications includes enabling communications from the first client device using L2TP.

7. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 1 wherein enabling communications includes enabling communications from the first client device without using cookies.

8. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 1 further comprising assigning to the first client device a first identifier to be included in payload portions of data packets that are communicated between the first client device and the host system, wherein the host-assigned identifier includes the first identifier.

9. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 8 wherein assigning the first identifier includes assigning the first identifier such that the host system may uniquely identify the first client device through use of the first identifier.

10-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) The method as in claim **[[**11**]]** 1 wherein:
the first identifier includes a first routable IP address; and
the second identifier includes a second routable IP address.

14. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 1 wherein the predetermined host system controls include parental controls.

15. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 1 wherein the predetermined host system controls include controls over personal identification information communicated to a third party.

16. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 1 wherein the predetermined host system controls include controls over a personalized web page.

17. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 1 wherein the predetermined host system controls are maintained by the host system.

18. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 1 wherein the attribute portion of the received data packet further includes a source address that identifies the network address translator device and the method further comprises:

examining the attribute portion of the received data packet for the source address; and

using the source address to determine whether the received data packet is a first data packet received from the network address translator device;

wherein examining the portion of the received data packet includes examining the payload portion of the received data packet for the host-assigned identifier that identifies the client device that communicated the received data packet only when the received data packet is determined to be a data packet from the first data packet received from the network address translator device.

19. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 1 further comprising identifying a user of the first client device based on the examined host-assigned identifier and a user identifier, wherein processing the received data packet includes processing the received data packet based on the examined host-assigned identifier and the user identifier.

20. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 19 wherein:

the user identifier includes a user name, and

processing the received data packet includes processing the received data packet based on the examined host-assigned identifier and the user name.

21. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 19 wherein:

the user identifier includes a user name and a password, and

processing the received data packet includes processing the received data packet based on the examined host-assigned identifier, the user name, and the password.

22. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 1 further comprising identifying the client device from among several client devices based on the examined host-assigned identifier, wherein the received data packet is processed in accordance with the predetermined host system controls accessible to the host system for the identified client device.

23-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously presented) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium or a propagated signal for a host system to communicate with and to identify at least one client device that communicates with the host system through a network address translator device, comprising:

an enabling code segment that causes the computer to enable communications from a first client device through the network address translator device and to enable communications from a second client device that communicates through the network address translator device;

a receiving code segment that causes the computer to receive a data packet that includes a payload portion and an attribute portion, wherein the attribute portion includes a destination address that indicates a destination for the data packet and a nearest source address;

an examining code segment that causes the computer to examine a portion of the received data packet other than the nearest source address for a host-assigned identifier that identifies a client device that communicated the received data packet;

a processing code segment that causes the computer to process the received data packet in accordance with predetermined host system controls accessible to the host system for the first

client device if the host-assigned identifier identifies the first client device and to process the received data packet in accordance with predetermined host system controls accessible to the host system for the second client device if the host-assigned identifier identifies the second client device; and

an assigning code segment that causes the computer to assign to the second client device a second identifier to be included in payload portions of data packets that are communicated between the second client device and the host system and to assign to the first client device a first identifier to be included in payload portions of data packets that are communicated between the first client device and the host system, wherein:

the first and second host-assigned identifiers include the first and second identifiers, respectively, and

the assigning code segment causes the computer to assign the first identifier such that the host system may uniquely identify the first client device through use of the first identifier and to assign the second identifier such that the host system may uniquely identify the second client device through use of the second identifier.

41. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 40 wherein the enabling code segment causes the computer to enable communications from the first client device operating in a home network through the network address translator device.

42. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 40 wherein the examining code segment causes the computer to examine the payload portion of the received data packet for the host-assigned identifier that identifies the client device that communicated the received data packet.

43. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 40 wherein the examining code segment causes the computer to examine the received data packet for the host-assigned

identifier that differs from the nearest source address and that identifies the client device that communicated the received data packet.

44. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 40 wherein the enabling code segment causes the computer to enable communications from the first client device using a tunneling protocol.

45. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 44 wherein the enabling code segment causes the computer to enable communications from the first client device using L2TP.

46. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 40 wherein the enabling code segment causes the computer to enable communications from the first client device without using cookies.

47. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 40 further comprising an assigning code segment that causes the computer to assign to the first client device a first identifier to be included in payload portions of data packets that are communicated between the first client device and the host system, wherein the host-assigned identifier includes the first identifier.

48. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 47 wherein the assigning code segment causes the computer to assign the first identifier such that the host system may uniquely identify the first client device through use of the first identifier.

49-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently amended) The computer program of claim [[50]] 40 wherein:

the first identifier includes a first routable IP address; and

the second identifier includes a second routable IP address.

53. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 40 wherein the predetermined host system controls include parental controls.

54. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 40 wherein the predetermined host system controls include controls over personal identification information communicated to a third party.

55. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 40 wherein the predetermined host system controls include controls over a personalized web page.

56. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 40 wherein the predetermined host system controls are maintained by the host system.

57. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 40 wherein:

the attribute portion of the received data packet further includes a source address that identifies the network address translator device;

the examining code segment causes the computer to examine the attribute portion of the received data packet for the source address and uses the source address to determine whether the received data packet is a first data packet received from the network address translator device; and

the examining code segment causes the computer to examine the payload portion of the received data packet for the host-assigned identifier that identifies the client device that communicated the received data packet only when the received data packet is determined to be a data packet from the first data packet received from the network address translator device.

58. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 40 further comprising an identifying code segment that causes the computer to identify a user of the first client device based on the examined host-assigned identifier and a user identifier, wherein the processing code segment causes the computer to process the received data packet based on the examined host-assigned identifier and the user identifier.

59. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 58 wherein:

the user identifier includes a user name, and

the processing code segment causes the computer to process the received data packet based on the examined host-assigned identifier and the user name.

60. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 58 wherein:

the user identifier includes a user name and a password, and

the processing code segment causes the computer to process the received data packet based on the examined host-assigned identifier, the user name, and the password.

61. (Previously presented) The computer program of claim 40 further comprising an identifying code segment that causes the computer to identify the client device from among several client devices based on the examined host-assigned identifier, wherein the processing code segment causes the computer to process the received data packet in accordance with the predetermined host system controls accessible to the host system for the identified client device.

62-78. (Cancelled)

79. (Previously presented) A method for a host system to communicate with and to identify at least one client device that communicates with the host system through a network address translator device, the method comprising:

enabling communications from a first client device through the network address translator device;

receiving a data packet that includes a payload portion and an attribute portion, wherein the attribute portion includes a destination address that indicates a destination for the data packet and a nearest source address and wherein the attribute portion of the received data packet further includes a source address that identifies the network address translator device;

examining a portion of the received data packet other than the nearest source address for a host-assigned identifier that identifies a client device that communicated the received data packet;

processing the received data packet in accordance with predetermined host system controls accessible to the host system for the first client device if the host-assigned identifier identifies the first client device;

examining the attribute portion of the received data packet for the source address; and

using the source address to determine whether the received data packet is a first data packet received from the network address translator device,

wherein examining the portion of the received data packet includes examining the payload portion of the received data packet for the host-assigned identifier that identifies the client device that communicated the received data packet only when the received data packet is determined to be a data packet from the first data packet received from the network address translator device.

80. (Previously presented) A method for a host system to communicate with and to identify at least one client device that communicates with the host system through a network address translator device, the method comprising:

enabling communications from a first client device through the network address translator device;

receiving a data packet that includes a payload portion and an attribute portion, wherein the attribute portion includes a destination address that indicates a destination for the data packet and a nearest source address;

examining a portion of the received data packet other than the nearest source address for a host-assigned identifier that identifies a client device that communicated the received data packet;

processing the received data packet in accordance with predetermined host system controls accessible to the host system for the first client device if the host-assigned identifier identifies the first client device; and

identifying a user of the first client device based on the examined host-assigned identifier and a user identifier, wherein:

the user identifier includes a user name, and

processing the received data packet includes processing the received data packet based on the examined host-assigned identifier and the user name.

81. (Previously presented) A method for a host system to communicate with and to identify at least one client device that communicates with the host system through a network address translator device, the method comprising:

enabling communications from a first client device through the network address translator device;

receiving a data packet that includes a payload portion and an attribute portion, wherein the attribute portion includes a destination address that indicates a destination for the data packet and a nearest source address;

examining a portion of the received data packet other than the nearest source address for a host-assigned identifier that identifies a client device that communicated the received data packet;

processing the received data packet in accordance with predetermined host system controls accessible to the host system for the first client device if the host-assigned identifier identifies the first client device; and

identifying a user of the first client device based on the examined host-assigned identifier and a user identifier, wherein:

the user identifier includes a user name and a password, and

processing the received data packet includes processing the received data packet based on the examined host-assigned identifier, the user name, and the password.

82. (Previously presented) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium or a propagated signal for a host system to communicate with and to identify at least one client device that communicates with the host system through a network address translator device, comprising:

an enabling code segment that causes the computer to enable communications from a first client device through the network address translator device;

a receiving code segment that causes the computer to receive a data packet that includes a payload portion and an attribute portion, wherein the attribute portion includes a destination address that indicates a destination for the data packet and a nearest source address;

an examining code segment that causes the computer to examine a portion of the received data packet other than the nearest source address for a host-assigned identifier that identifies a client device that communicated the received data packet; and

a processing code segment that causes the computer to process the received data packet in accordance with predetermined host system controls accessible to the host system for the first client device if the host-assigned identifier identifies the first client device, wherein:

the attribute portion of the received data packet further includes a source address that identifies the network address translator device,

the examining code segment causes the computer to examine the attribute portion of the received data packet for the source address and uses the source address to determine whether the

received data packet is a first data packet received from the network address translator device, and

the examining code segment causes the computer to examine the payload portion of the received data packet for the host-assigned identifier that identifies the client device that communicated the received data packet only when the received data packet is determined to be a data packet from the first data packet received from the network address translator device.

83. (Previously presented) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium or a propagated signal for a host system to communicate with and to identify at least one client device that communicates with the host system through a network address translator device, comprising:

an enabling code segment that causes the computer to enable communications from a first client device through the network address translator device;

a receiving code segment that causes the computer to receive a data packet that includes a payload portion and an attribute portion, wherein the attribute portion includes a destination address that indicates a destination for the data packet and a nearest source address;

an examining code segment that causes the computer to examine a portion of the received data packet other than the nearest source address for a host-assigned identifier that identifies a client device that communicated the received data packet;

a processing code segment that causes the computer to process the received data packet in accordance with predetermined host system controls accessible to the host system for the first client device if the host-assigned identifier identifies the first client device; and

an identifying code segment that causes the computer to identify a user of the first client device based on the examined host-assigned identifier and a user identifier, wherein:

the user identifier includes a user name, and

the processing code segment causes the computer to process the received data packet based on the examined host-assigned identifier and the user name.

84. (Previously presented) A computer program stored on a computer readable medium or a propagated signal for a host system to communicate with and to identify at least one client device that communicates with the host system through a network address translator device, comprising:

an enabling code segment that causes the computer to enable communications from a first client device through the network address translator device;

a receiving code segment that causes the computer to receive a data packet that includes a payload portion and an attribute portion, wherein the attribute portion includes a destination address that indicates a destination for the data packet and a nearest source address;

an examining code segment that causes the computer to examine a portion of the received data packet other than the nearest source address for a host-assigned identifier that identifies a client device that communicated the received data packet;

a processing code segment that causes the computer to process the received data packet in accordance with predetermined host system controls accessible to the host system for the first client device if the host-assigned identifier identifies the first client device; and

an identifying code segment that causes the computer to identify a user of the first client device based on the examined host-assigned identifier and a user identifier, wherein:

the user identifier includes a user name and a password, and

the processing code segment causes the computer to process the received data packet based on the examined host-assigned identifier, the user name, and the password.